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(54) **METHOD, APPARATUS AND SYSTEM FOR
AUTOMATED SPINE LABELING**

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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method, an apparatus, and a system label one or more parts
of a spine in an image, in particular a computed tomography
(CT) image, of a human or animal body, and in order to
achieve a reliable spine labeling and a high throughput of
images, match a model of a spine segment with segments of
the spine in the image by starting matching the model of a
spine segment with an initial segment of the spine in the
image, wherein the initial segment of the spine in the image is
located at an initial position along the spine in the image, and
continue to match the model of a spine segment with one or
more further segments of the spine in the image, wherein the
further segments of the spine in the image are located at
positions farther along the spine in the image.

15 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets

